

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A thin-film magnetic head comprises a magnetoresistive film, a pair of magnetic domain control layers for applying a bias magnetic field to the magnetoresistive film, a pair of electrode layers for supplying a current to the magnetoresistive film, first and second shield layers for shielding the magnetoresistive film, a first insulating layer disposed between the magnetoresistive film and magnetic domain control layer and the first shield layer, and a second insulating layer disposed between the magnetoresistive film and electrode layer and the second shield layer. The shield layers have a distance therebetween shorter at a position where the electrode layer and magnetic domain control layer are laminated than that at a position where the magnetoresistive film is located. While the surface of the magnetic domain control layer on the first insulating layer side at the position where the electrode film and magnetic domain control layer are laminated is taken as a reference surface, the distance from the reference surface to the surface of the electrode layer on the second insulating layer side is set shorter than the distance from the reference surface to the surface of the magnetoresistive film on the second insulating layer side.